The poverty estimates in 2004-05 based on URP consumption distribution is comparable with the poverty estimates of 1993-94, estimated by the Planning Commission from NSS large sample survey of household consumer expenditure data of the 50th Round (July 1993-June 1994). The poverty estimates in 2004-05 based on MRP consumption is roughly (but not strictly) comparable with the poverty estimates of 1999-2000, estimated by the Planning Commission from NSS large sample survey of household consumer expenditure data of the 55th Round (July 1999-June 2000).

The poverty estimate of 2004-05 based on URP consumption distribution and MRP consumption distribution are 27.5% and 21.8% respectively. The poverty estimates of 1993-94 and 1999-2000 are estimated as 36% and 26.1% respectively.

To ensure comparability of the poverty estimates of the recent years, the Planning Commission in December 2005 constituted an Expert Group to review the methodology for estimation of poverty under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar with the following terms of reference:

(i) To examine the issues relating to the comparability of the 50th, 55th and 61st round, and to suggest methodologies for deriving such comparability with past and future surveys.

(ii) To review alternative conceptualizations of poverty, and the associated technical aspects of procedures of measurement and data base for empirical estimation including procedures for updating over time and across states.

(iii) In the light of (ii), to recommend any changes in the existing procedures of official estimates of poverty.

Central Himalayan Development Authority

†3903. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to constitute Central Himalayan Development Authority for proper development of States of this part of the land keeping in view the environment importance of Central Himalaya;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether some suggestions have been received from concerned States in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Funds for CSS

3904. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government allocates funds to State Governments/UTs for Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated to Rajasthan, Orissa, Bihar, UP, MP, West Bengal, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Delhi, scheme-wise, department-wise, amount-wise and year-wise since 2001-02 till date;

(c) the criteria which has been laid down by Central Government for allocation of funds under CSS and whether they feel satisfied with utilization of funds; and

(d) if not, what steps Government have taken to ensure that such funds are fully utilized for the purpose it is made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Allocation for Plan Schemes are made by Planning Commission to the Union Ministries which include provision for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). Release to the States for CSS are made in installments by Administrative Ministries concerned. The details of releases about these schemes are available with the Administrative Ministries concerned and in a few cases it is readily available on their website. However, time series data is not being maintained at a central place by any single agency.

(c) and (d) The crtieria for allocation of funds under CSS to individual States is finalized by the Ministry in consultation with the State Governments